

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 are pending.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite, wherein said linker propeptide is isolatable from a Plant antimicrobial protein derived from the genus *Impatiens*, and wherein said linker propeptide provides a cleavage site whereby the expressed polyprotein is post-translationally processed into the component protein molecules, with the proviso that at least two of said protein encoding regions encode different proteins. Support for these amendments is in the specification on page 6, lines 19-23, and page 14, lines 23-24.

Claims 18 and 21 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 1 to remove multiple dependency.

Claim 20 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 2.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action mailed October 1, 2002, the claims were restricted into three groups:
group I, claims 1-21
group II, claims 22-26; and
group III, claims 27-35.

Further, Applicants are required under 37 CFR § 1.499 to elect one of the following inventions, or Sequences, of Groups A-N corresponding to SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 6, 7, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, or the polynucleotide of Fig. 34, or the corresponding polypeptide.

Accordingly, Applicants hereby elect the claims of group I (claims 1-21) and Group A, a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 without traverse. However, Applicants reserve their right to Petition from the election requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

A Petition for an Extension of Time for two months from November 1, 2002 up to and including January 1, 2003 is submitted herewith with the fee by credit card. However, if it is deemed that any other extension or any other fees are necessary to maintain pendency of this application, then the Office is hereby

authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1744 (in the name of Syngenta Biotechnology Inc.) for payment of such fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Version of Amendments to the Claims

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification on page 1, to insert above paragraph 1:

-- This application is a § 371 application of International Application No. PCT/GB99/02716, filed August 17, 1999 which claims the benefit of the Great Britain Application Serial Nos. 9818001.1 filed August 18, 1998, and 9826753.7 filed December 4, 1998 which are incorporated by reference in their entireties.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A method of improving expression levels of one or more proteins in a transgenic plant comprising inserting into the genome of said plant a DNA sequence comprising a promoter region operably linked to two or more protein encoding regions and a 3'-terminator region wherein said protein encoding regions are separated from each other by a DNA sequence coding for a linker propeptide, wherein said linker propeptide is isolatable from a plant antimicrobial protein derived from the genus *Impatiens*, and wherein said linker propeptide provides [providing] a cleavage site whereby the expressed polyprotein is post-translationally processed into the component protein molecules, with the proviso that at least two of said protein encoding regions encode different proteins.

3. (AMENDED) A method for the expression of multiple proteins in a transgenic plant comprising inserting into the genome of said plant a DNA sequence comprising a promoter region operably linked to a signal sequence said signal sequence being operably linked to two or more protein encoding regions and a 3'-terminator region wherein said protein encoding regions are separated from each other by a DNA sequence coding for a linker propeptide wherein said linker propeptide is isolatable from a plant antimicrobial protein derived from the genus *Impatiens* or a fragment thereof, and wherein said linker propeptide [providing] provides a cleavage site whereby the expressed polyprotein is post-translationally processed into the component protein molecules, with the proviso that at least two of said protein encoding regions encode different proteins.

18. (amended) A method according to claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] wherein the linker propeptide has a protease processing site engineered at either or both ends thereof.
20. (amended) A method according to claim 2 [or 3] wherein the signal sequence is derived from a plant defensin gene.
21. (amended) A method according to claim 1 [any of the preceding claims] wherein one or more of the multiple proteins is a defense protein.